(b) if so, what is Centre's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to review its decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tightening of registration norms

2992. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has sought tightening of registration norms including fixing of a higher capital base for multi-modal transport operators (MTOs) to prevent entry of fly-by-night operators in this newly emerged segment of the transport sector;

(b) whether there is scope for mushrooming of operators without adequate experience in the field under the recently-enacted laws governing MTOs;

(c) what is Government's reaction to the above;

(d) what is the number of applications received from foreign companies to get registered as MTOs and Government's decision thereon;

(e) what is the number of Indian companies so far registered; and

(f) the nature of amendments Government propose to make in the existing laws to meet the present needs of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Till date 61 applications have been received from foreign companies for registration by Director General (Shipping) and none of them has so far been registered as MTO as the question whether they can be registered under the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993 is being legally examined.

(e) As on date, 30 Indian companies have been registered as MTOs.

(f) Certain amendments to the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, are under consideration of the Government.

Motor accidents in India

2993. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an accident every minute in India because of the heavy Vehicular movement on the road in India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to enforce the Motor Vehicles Laws and make the punishment more rigorous to minimise the motor accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) On the basis of accident figures of 1992, there is an accident every 1.706 minutes in India.

(b) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder already provide for stricter requirements in respect of the issuance of driving licence and penalties for driving at a speed exceeding the prescribed limits, carrying of load in excess of the prescribed ceilings, driving while in drunkan condition, driving unsafe vehicle and other matters connected with traffic regulations. However, responsibility for enforcement of these rules and regulations rests with the State Governments. From time to time, the State Governments are impressed upon to strictly enforce these provisions. Besides, with a view to check the road accidents Government also organises various awareness campaigns to familaries the road users with various traffic regulations.